

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES FOR COMMUNITIES *in action* at the Arbors at Antelope Asphalt Roofing Project

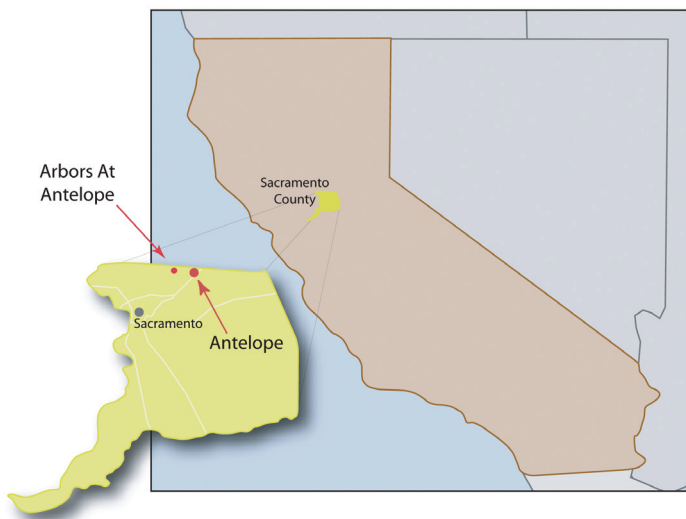
This fact sheet is part of a series that illustrates the services provided by U.S. EPA's Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) program.

Community Technical Assistance Needs

The Arbors at Antelope neighborhood is a 151-acre rental home community located in Antelope, California. The neighborhood includes 540 single-family and duplex homes. In 2008, the neighborhood was in the second year of a three-year asphalt reroofing project. Tar kettle vats used to store liquid asphalt were stationed at work locations in the neighborhood.

Neighborhood residents concerned about their exposure to asphalt fumes during the reroofing process contacted U.S. EPA Region 9 for information on the potential health effects of the fumes. The neighborhood's technical assistance priorities were:

- to learn more about the characteristics of asphalt roofing tar and identify any potential health effects from asphalt fumes; and
- to ensure that technical assistance findings were accessible by a general audience and made available to all interested residents.



Asphalt kettle.

The TASC Response

EPA Region 9 contacted TASC on August 21, 2008. Following a community needs assessment, TASC moved rapidly to address the neighborhood's priorities. TASC Technical Assistance Specialists researched asphalt roofing tar and developed a technical report summarizing available information, including:

- general characteristics
- toxicity and health effects
- regulations and regulating agencies
- best management practices for application
- alternatives to asphalt roofing

The draft report was delivered to the neighborhood in October 2008 and finalized following incorporation of residents' comments. TASC also translated the report into Spanish to better serve the neighborhood's Spanish-speaking population. A TASC Senior Technical Advisor presented the information contained in the report to neighborhood residents and facilitated a group discussion at an evening meeting on January 28, 2009.

Process Outcomes: Community Benefits

TASC's services addressed the neighborhood's priorities, enabling residents to learn about asphalt roofing tar and provide informed recommendations to the neighborhood's property management and ownership regarding the ongoing asphalt reroofing process.

- The bilingual technical report developed by TASC provided residents of the Arbors at Antelope with knowledge regarding a potentially harmful substance present in their neighborhood.
- TASC's presentation of the report at a community meeting provided an opportunity for all interested residents to learn about the project's findings.
- The meeting's facilitated discussion provided an opportunity for residents to ask follow-up questions of an independent technical advisor, as well as discuss their concerns with the neighborhood's property management and ownership.

"The TASC asphalt roofing report was a large part of the Arbors management's decision to cease tarring until a solution is found to satisfy residents. We are grateful for TASC's assistance."

~Shelby Rodriguez, resident of
Arbors at Antelope

What is the TASC Program?

www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tasc



**For more information
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Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC)

is a U.S. EPA program that provides educational and technical assistance to communities affected by hazardous waste sites regulated by the Superfund and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act programs. TASC provides independent technical advisors to explain hazardous waste issues and to interpret plans for cleaning up contamination. TASC offers assistance to help communities better understand local hazardous waste issues and engage in the cleanup process.

